

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

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Historically, the County of Los Angeles has provided employment opportunities for youth and young professionals through a variety of programs. For example, the Department of Public Social Services and the Department of Community and Senior Services collaborate with the County Workforce Investment Board to administer the Summer Youth Jobs Program. Also, the Department of Human Resources coordinates with several other county departments to place a few professional student workers in educational positions each year. Unfortunately, due to a combination of factors including budget reductions at the state and federal levels, employment opportunities for our youth have largely diminished in the last several years.

Providing meaningful employment for our youth, especially during the Summer months when they are out of school, is an important step toward promoting their health, safety and general well-being. Employment for youth during their vacation periods from school can help shape their future career goals and provide them with a safe alternative to roaming the streets where they are often times influenced by drugs and other crimes.

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Other jurisdictions like New York City also see the value in youth employment, as evidenced by its recent creation of 40,000 temporary employment positions for its youth. In light of our high crime and the many inherent benefits of employing our youth, it is imperative that the County of Los Angeles take a strong leadership role by promoting youth employment opportunities.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work in concert with the Department of Human Resources in order to develop a uniform countywide policy which shall accomplish the following tasks:

- 1) Create up to 3,000 temporary part-time employment positions for youth between the ages of 14 and 18 during their vacation periods away from school. Such employment opportunities shall be, to the extent feasible, distributed proportionately throughout the County's 38 departments;
- 2) Review the existing Student Worker and Professional Student Worker Programs administered by the Department of Human Resources to examine the feasibility, including a cost-benefit analysis, of expanding and enhancing the program to accommodate a greater number of participants; and
- 3) Report back with findings and any recommendations within 60 days.

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